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Amended Claims:

1. (amended) A method of decoding two-channel matrix encoded audio to reconstruct multichannel audio that approximates a discrete surround-sound presentation, comprising:
  - 5 subband filtering the two-channel matrix encoded audio into a plurality of two-channel subband audio signals;  
separately in each of a plurality of subbands, steering the two-channel subband audio signals in a sound  
10 field to form multichannel subband audio signals; and  
synthesizing the multichannel subband audio signals in the subbands to reconstruct the multichannel audio.
2. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the reconstructed multichannel audio comprises a plurality of dominant audio signals.
3. (original) The method of claim 2, wherein said dominant audio signals reside in different subbands.
4. (amended) The method of claim 3, wherein steering the two-channel subband audio signals comprises computing a dominance vector in said sound field for each said subband, said dominance vector in each subband being  
5 determined by the dominant audio signals in ~~the~~ that subband.
5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein subband filtering groups the subband audio signals into a

plurality of bark bands.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the two-channel matrix encoded audio includes at least left, right, center, left surround and right surround (L,R,C,Ls,Rs) audio channels, said two-channel subband  
5 audio signals being steered into an expanded sound field that includes a discrete point for each said audio channel.

7. (original) The method of claim 6, wherein each said discrete point corresponds to a set of gain values predetermined to produce an optimized audio output at each of L,R,C,Ls,Rs speakers, respectively, when the two-channel  
5 subband audio signals are steered to that point in the expanded sound field.

8. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein each said discrete point further includes a gain value predetermined to produce an optimized audio output at a center surround (Cs) speaker when the subband audio signal  
5 is steered to that point in the expanded sound field.

9. (original) The method of claim 7, wherein steering the audio signals, comprises:

computing a dominance vector in said sound field for each said subband, said dominance vector being  
5 determined by the dominant audio signals in the subband;

using said dominance vectors and said predetermined gain values for said discrete points to compute a set of gain values for each subband; and

using said two-channel subband audio signals and  
10 said gain values to compute the multichannel subband audio signals.

10. (original) The method of claim 9, wherein the gain values for each subband are computed by performing a linear interpolation of the predetermined gain values surrounding the dominance vector to define the set of gain values at the point in the sound field indicated by the dominance vector.

11. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the expanded sound field comprises a 9-point sound field, each said discrete point corresponding to a set of gain values predetermined to produce an optimized audio output at each of L,R,C,Ls,Rs speakers, respectively, when the two-channel subband audio signals are steered to that point in the expanded sound field.

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (amended) A method of decoding two-channel matrix encoded audio to reconstruct multichannel audio that approximates a discrete surround-sound presentation, comprising:

5 providing two-channel matrix encoded audio that includes at least left, right, center, left surround and right surround (L,R,C,Ls,Rs) audio channels;

subband filtering the two-channel matrix encoded audio into a plurality of two-channel subband audio signals;

10 separately in each of a plurality of subbands, steering the two-channel subband audio signals in an expanded sound field to form multichannel subband audio signals, said sound field having a discrete point for each

15 said audio channel, each said discrete point corresponding  
to a set of gain values predetermined to produce an  
optimized audio output at each of L,R,C,Ls,Rs speakers,  
respectively, when the two-channel subband audio signals  
are steered to that point in the expanded sound field; and  
20 synthesizing the multichannel subband audio  
signals in the subbands to reconstruct the multichannel  
audio.

16. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the  
reconstructed multichannnel audio comprises a plurality of  
dominant audio signals that reside in different subbands.

17. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein  
subband filtering groups the subband audio signals into a  
plurality of bark bands.

18. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein each  
said discrete point further includes a gain value  
predetermined to produce an optimized audio output at a  
center surround (Cs) speaker when the subband audio signal  
5 is steered to that point in the expanded sound field.

19. (original) The method of claim 15, wherein the  
expanded sound field comprises a 9-point sound field.